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I am aware that all these passages have been subjected by some to a torturing process, but unless taken in a non-natural sense they are a complete reply to Mr. Ingersoll.

T. G. DASHIELL.

# IX.

## START INCUBATORS EARLY.

AN "esteemed contemporary"—devoting its columns to the discussion of religious questions and topics of interest to agriculturists and country people generally—advises its readers to "start incubators early." The many persons who have experimented with those wonderful machines, which (according to circulars and advertisements) supplement the maternal instincts of the female of "Plato's man," will at once admit that one cannot learn the methods of operating incubators any too soon. As the paper from which I have quoted suggests, "Nothing but experience can teach one how to run them successfully."

Now, I would respectfully but firmly offer the same advice to the politician, "Start your incubators early."

The politician must (like the agriculturalist who goes into the chicken business) first catch his egg. This, in political matters, will be a young man with a shell of ambition and a purse well filled with white silver and yellow gold—and now is the time to look up such specimens. A little later the time will come when he will have to be put into the political incubator, the nominating convention. During this latter period he will have to be looked after, every now and then, and perhaps held up to scrutiny as the embryo chick in the hen's egg is; but if he is not "sterile"—that is, if he has the germs of feathers worth plucking—he will be pretty sure to develop into a fowl that can at least be sold (out).

I am not a betting man, but if I were, I should bet that my advice was worth following. It was suggested by a religious newspaper; and an ecclesiastical wire-puller can, I think, give odds to any politician who ever manipulated the strings of our marionettes in public life.

It may be objected that nominating conventions will not be held for some months yet; but the wise farmer never puts the first egg that his hens lay into his incubator immediately it is laid. No, he collects the eggs one after another as they are found and keeps them in saw-dust or salt or some preservative mixture until all the places in his incubator can be filled. The experienced politician will have no trouble in keeping his embryo candidates fresh. A continually favorable mention in the newspapers is warranted to preserve the freshness of every embryo candidate.

I am sure that if politicians will only ponder over this advice they will perceive how wise it is, and will speedily proceed to "start incubators early."

OLNEY SEARLES.

# X.

## GEORGEISM MAKING THE RICH RICHER.

I SHOULD like to ask Mr. Henry George this question: Suppose his theories should be embodied in the laws, would not then the wealthy real-estate holders of our great cities have advantages over their poorer fellow citizens far greater than they possess now? Would not the real estate Croesus of the metropolis then pay a much smaller proportion of the taxes than he does to-day? A lot of ground, value say \$10,000, on which he builds a house costing say \$30,000, would be taxed